

NUCLEAR BOMBS IN A BRIEFCASE?

The bomb blasts in the New York World Trade Center, Bombay and London were reported as unconnected incidents.

But they all had several things in common ...

By Joe Vialls

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The megablast in the City of London last month was the fourth to warrant a permanent place on the Richter scale in just over a year. This bomb and others in London, Bombay, and the New York World Trade Center all shared three common features: each megabomb was exploded in a known financial centre, each left few if any scorch marks, and the resulting shock blast on every occasion exceeded the normal explosive skills and logistic capabilities of any existing, known 'terrorist' organisation.

The major media recently suggested the World Trade Center bomb was "home-made" and placed in an underground car park by an Islamic militant from New Jersey. The claim was ludicrous, as the shock blast needed to rip through seven floors of reinforced concrete car park cannot be generated by components purchased over the counter from a chemical warehouse.

On 23 March Tom Valentine, of *Radio Free America*, interviewed veteran nuclear physicist Galen Winsor who agreed the blast was not caused by a low-yield conventional explosive charge. Galen Winsor went much further:

"I'm sure it was just exactly what John McPhee predicted 20 years ago in his book, *The Curve of Binding Energy*, where he quoted Theodore B. Taylor, a theoretical physicist out of Los Alamos, who said that someone someday was going to blow up the World Trade Center with a small nuclear device, the size of a stick of gum."

"Mc Phee's book was published in 1975, although the prediction first appeared in the *New Yorker* magazine in 1973. Taylor worked in the area of the micronisation of nuclear weapons—in other words, making nuclear weapons small enough so the Israelis could carry them around in a briefcase."

At first glance, the thought of micronised nuclear weapons being used against western financial centres seems absurd, but there is now considerable evidence indicating strongly that small nuclear devices were also responsible for the two massive London blasts and at least one other in Bombay.

In London, both megabombs were detonated in the street but still generated massive shock blasts. Here the finger was pointed at the IRA, but the propaganda value of the isolated bomb blasts is questionable. The IRA has no record of bombing world financial centres. Media use of IRA code-words to 'authenticate' both megabomb blasts means nothing—the major media in London can whistle up five or more IRA code-words in a matter of seconds if the mood takes it.

There is another drawback where the IRA is concerned, and that is its ability to obtain and import huge volumes of high explosive to the British mainland. If the media is to be believed, the IRA, normally incapable of smuggling guns to the mainland, apparently imported at least two tons of explosive in less than 18 months. Sniffer dogs at UK ports are famous for their ability to detect marijuana in quantities as low as two ounces. The same dogs are also trained to sniff for explosives...

When the first London bomb exploded on the night of the British general election in April 1992, the police were lured away from the site by a 'known' IRA code-word. There is no IRA record of such deception. Traditionally the IRA provides an accurate warning, or it provides no warning at all. Further, the IRA does not normally waste vast quantities of explosive where it will cause virtually no injuries. Backing up the non-IRA sequence of events were eyewitness reports from a range of more than three miles, which were chilling:

"The ground shook under our feet. There was a brilliant white flash and a tall vertical column of smoke."

Powerful, modern high-explosives do not flash "brilliant white" at all, but nuclear devices certainly do. Nuclear devices also send out near-instantaneous seismic shock waves that ripple underground for miles, shaking the ground severely.

In what might have been the greatest Freudian slip of the nineties, the British government claimed the weight of the bomb was "45 kilograms"—a puny weight in conventional explosive terms, but the exact weight of the small nuclear shell fired by the British army's 155 mm FH-70 L/39 long-range gun-howitzer.

Two Australian nuclear physicists confirmed that the 155 mm core nuclear device would measure no more than three inches in diameter. Those physicists' April 1992 opinions were considerably reinforced during March 1993 by Galen Winsor on the *Radio Free America*

talk show, when he pointed out:

"The model of a miniature nuclear bomb that I have, which is 2-3/4 inches in length, was made from 94 per cent-pure Pu-239 [plutonium]... This is actually a lot bigger than the Israeli briefcase bombs."

Until now, few members of the public have been aware how small micronised nuclear devices really are, or the way in which their explosive yield is tightly controlled. One device that has been around since the seventies is the American SADM (Special Atomic Demolition Munition) which is carried by a single soldier and used to create behind-the-lines mayhem for the enemy. SADM is tiny and lethally efficient: when triggered, it generates the same explosive blast as ten tons of TNT, from a package small enough to send by courier. Unfortunately for the public at large, SADM also produces significant quantities of extremely dangerous radiation. This can be detected by reading the ultraviolet spectrum in the vicinity of the blast, but few workers in London or New York have access to the correct equipment.

While the British government was busy convincing its citizens "the IRA did it", London TV cameras were accidentally filming a team of experts entering the blast area wearing full nuclear protective clothing—extraordinary behaviour from experts simply walking into the area to take a quick peek at the remains of an old-fashioned IRA car bomb.

Almost exactly a year later, the second London megabomb exploded in the same part of the financial centre. Like the first bomb, damage was awesome with repair estimates running as high as one billion dollars. Once again the obvious was completely overlooked: repair bills from huge IRA bombs detonated in the centre of Belfast generally range from ten to twenty million dollars. Viewed in dollar-damage terms alone, each megabomb in London was therefore at least fifty times more powerful than its crude IRA cousins across in Northern Ireland. Put bluntly, the IRA does not have the technology for these bombs.

The April 1993 bomb was supposedly detonated in a parked garbage truck, but managed to create a huge crater in the road that was subsequently filmed by the media—another crucial error confirmed by independent explosives experts in Australia. The blast from most bombs takes the easiest path—in this case outwards, then upwards to atmosphere. The experts advised that the crater could only have appeared if the bomb was dropped from an aircraft, or was buried in advance, or was a nuclear device with near-instantaneous blast expansion. It is an impressive crater measuring roughly forty feet deep by sixty feet in diameter. The photograph provides mute proof that the awesome bomb could not have originated in Northern Ireland.

Radiation left behind by nuclear devices—even micronised nuclear devices—can be extremely dangerous for those forced to work in the area after the bomb has exploded—probably a very good reason for the American and British governments to blame Islamic militants and the IRA respectively. For as long as the general public remain unaware of the risk, they will continue to commute to work and happily beaver away at their desks.

If either government 'went public' with the news that nuclear devices were used, there might be widespread panic in two of the most important financial centres in the world, leading to a complete refusal to return to work, and thus complete paralysis in the major financial markets. Perhaps worse would be the 'run on' effect when smaller conventional bombs exploded at a later date. To a nervous and jittery public, every explosion would be a potential nuclear device with the high attendant risks of radiation poisoning. In the harsh 'New World Order' it seems likely the health and lives of a

few thousand office workers would be gladly sacrificed in order to avoid short-term chaos.

During early May 1993, the ITN *World News* from London carried an interesting feature in which it was explained that due to thefts of highly radioactive uranium-235, terrorists would now be able to contaminate conventional bombs with 500 grams of uranium, thereby forcing the police to stay away from the area for days. Exactly why experienced terrorists would risk detection and death by transporting deadly, unshielded uranium around in their pockets was not explained.

There is no credible reason for keeping the police and other authorities away from a bomb-site after massive damage has been inflicted. However, the rumour could form the basis of a government defence in cases where American or British citizens located

strong sources of radiation—near the World Trade Center or in the city of London, for example.

The question of exactly 'who' is bombing some of the largest financial centres in the world currently remains unanswered, but the power of the bombs limits the candidates. Though much has been said in America about the possible involvement of the Israeli intelligence service, Mossad, the only evidence pointing in its direction is both London bombs exploding on a Saturday, the Jewish Sabbath. While this would certainly have limited the number of possible deaths among Jewish financial workers in the city of London, the timings were probably coincidental.

Most likely the question of 'who' will never be answered. The

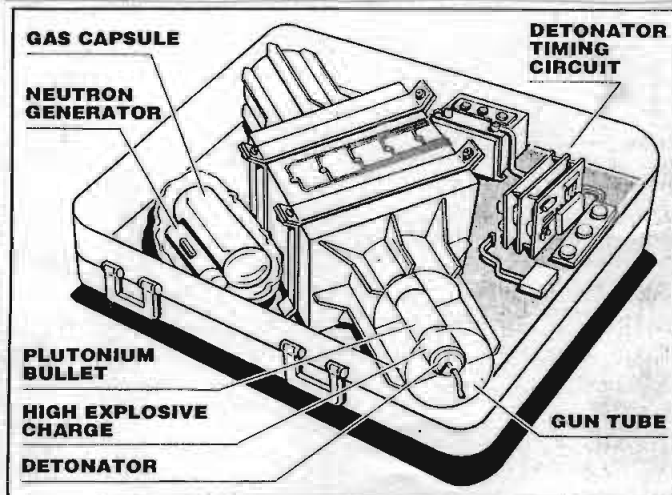
self-appointed 'New World Order' has imposed its draconian will on a large number of resentful countries in a very short period of time—clearly wishing to change the world into a great, peaceful, American-led democratic environment, perhaps similar to that existing in Los Angeles after the first Rodney King verdict was handed down.

Any one of a dozen different countries with a grudge against the 'New World Order' could be responsible for the bombs, if it managed to buy or manufacture micronised nuclear weapons. Most frightening of all is the reality that America and Britain are utterly powerless to resist attacks of this kind. Though their intelligence services have computers full of Islamic and IRA suspects' names, those names are worthless if the attacks are being launched by another nation, as appears to be the case.

There is no way in the world the American or British police can hope to detect a complete stranger with a briefcase bomb among tens of thousands of other citizens with briefcases, in two of the most densely populated western cities on earth. The most compelling question is when are the bombers going to remove the kid gloves and place one of these devices in Time Square or Piccadilly Circus during the rush hour. American nuclear physicist Galen Winsor said the bomb planted in the World Trade Center was incorrectly placed:

"They intended to topple one tower of the World Trade Center into the other tower and take out [kill] more than fifty thousand people."

On the available evidence it seems the aspirations of a small, arrogant bunch of men who decided to impose a 'New World Order' on a host of very unwilling small sovereign nations, did not think the exercise through to its perhaps inevitable conclusion. Those same arrogant men have placed tens of millions of citizens at risk because of their own gross incompetence and thirst for absolute power. The 'New World Order' now seems set to face the unbridled wrath of large numbers of citizens in the near future.



Bomb in a briefcase: A simplified sketch of a portable nuclear device, minus plutonium, made by Greenpeace.